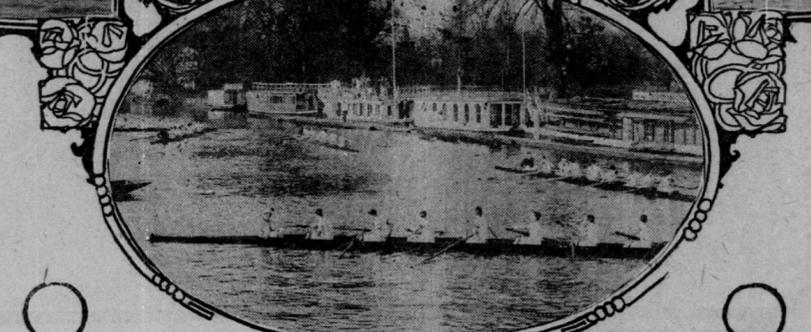


"Bumping" Boat Races at the English Universities

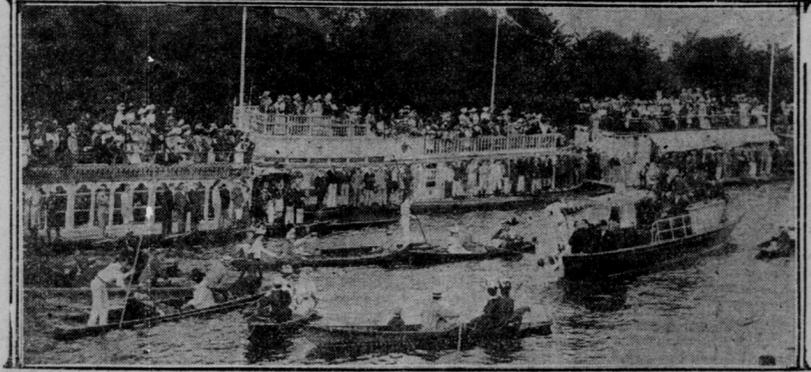


AWAITING THE STARTING GUN

A BUMP



EIGHT-OARS AND COLLEGE BARGES ON THE ISIS AT OXFORD, ENGLAND



CROWDS OF SPECTATORS ON THE COLLEGE BARGES ON A RACE DAY

By Arthur Inkersley

While there are opportunities for enjoying almost every form of sport at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the most characteristic recreation is eight oared boat racing. Cricket, football, lawn tennis, golf, polo, driving, fox hunting, etc., may be obtained equally well, and in some cases better than elsewhere, but few men get a chance of pulling in an eight oared boat after their undergraduate days are over. The most important rowing event of the year is, of course, the interuniversity race on the Thames over a course of four and a half miles from Putney to Mortlake near London. In this race Oxford is represented by the eight best oarsmen selected from the 21 colleges and two halls which make up the university (in much the same manner as all the states form the union), and Cambridge by men picked from the eight oared crews of her 17 colleges and three hostels. As a single strong college of Oxford or Cambridge not infrequently turns out an eight that wins the Grand challenge cup at Henley regatta, it is evident that a crew made up of the picked oarsmen of all the college crews at either university is a pretty formidable combination. For the last half century or more no crew representing the universities of Oxford or Cambridge has taken part in the Henley regatta; but it is usual for the one or two fastest eight oared crews of single colleges to go to Henley each year and enter the races for the Grand challenge cup and other trophies. Oxford and Cambridge oarsmen also enter for the four oars, pair oars, diamond and Wingfield sculls, etc.

As soon as the interuniversity boat race, which takes place in spring, is over the men composing the university crews go back to their own colleges and add strength to their college eights. Inasmuch as the men making up the varsity eight may come from as many different colleges, it would be impracticable to gather them together into one boat again. Besides this, it is desired to make the annual interuniversity boat race over the long course the final test. The Henley course, being only a mile and 550 yards, is so short that it is quite possible that the crew which was beaten in the four and a half mile race might win at Henley, and this would make the interuniver-

sity race unsatisfactory and inconclusive. Then, too, each college wants and is entitled to the services of its best oarsmen during the summer, when the college eight oared races are held.

Though the royal regatta at Henley-on-Thames is the greatest and most beautiful aquatic carnival in the world, and its trophies are more highly esteemed by amateurs than any other rowing prizes, "going to Henley" is regarded by British oarsmen rather as a frolic and jolly outing than as a serious, solemn, nerve racking affair. The Englishmen who take part in Henley regatta are accomplished oarsmen, many of whom have been rowing since they were schoolboys at Eton, and in fine physical condition, but they are not prepared as prize fighters. They abstain from unwholesome food and drink, do not smoke much, row regularly, and in the contest pull as hard as they can, but they do not submit to a rigid system of training or deliver themselves into the hands of a professional coach; and though, of course, they want to win, they are not heartbroken over defeat. It is possible for any strong, healthy man who knows how to row and is in good physical trim to "bucket" over the Henley course without any special training. Indeed, the untrained or lightly trained man is livelier than the severely trained one, and is, of course, superior to the over-trained one. Though the "stewards" who control Henley regatta are old university oarsmen, the regatta is an affair quite apart from university rowing, neither victory nor defeat of a college crew in any of the events affecting its standing in the rowing world of Oxford or Cambridge in the least.

The founders of Henley regatta never dreamed that it would some day become an international affair and would give rise to all sorts of heart burning recrimination, odious charges and acrimonious discussion. They expected that the competitors would be one or two strong college crews from Oxford and Cambridge, the Eton eight, crews from the London, Leander, Thames and other metropolitan rowing clubs, and occasionally a foreign crew. It was further supposed that any oarsmen who might enter from foreign countries would be willing to accept the regatta as they found it and to submit to the rules drawn up by the "stewards," who are men of wide experience not only in rowing, but in

sports and life generally. The founders of the regatta certainly did not look forward to a time when the competitors would carp at the regulations, denounce the management and undertake to say what the rules governing the event should be.

But to deal more particularly with rowing at Oxford and Cambridge. In the case of Oxford, boating is done on the Isis (as the portion of the Thames near Oxford is named), and a tributary called the Cherwell (pronounced Charwell). The latter, however, is so narrow a stream that it is used only for pleasure rowing, chiefly in canoes and punts. At Cambridge the boating water is the Cam, which is narrower and has less current than the Isis. For convenience sake, I will describe rowing at Oxford, which is in all essential points similar to rowing at the sister university. Each

of the 21 colleges and two halls of Oxford university is represented on the river by an eight oared boat, manned by the eight best oarsmen among the undergraduates of not more than four years' standing. The hills are sometimes not strong enough in rowing men to put an eight on the river, so that from 21 to 23 crews take part in the annual college races in May in what is known as the "summer term." Oxford is 112 miles by river from London bridge, and the Thames is not a very wide stream in its upper reaches. The rowing course between Ilfley lock and Folly bridge is about one and a quarter miles long and in some places, notably at a point named "The Gut," is barely broad enough to accommodate two racing eight oars at once. Consequently, if the boats rowed in couples, the beaten one retiring, and each crew was called on to row only once a day, weeks would be required to determine the relative position of the boats. To meet this difficulty (which occurs also at Cambridge) a peculiar style of racing, practiced nowhere else in the world, except per-

haps in some British colony, has been devised. This is the "bumping race." What is called the "Eights Week" at Oxford really lasts eight days, and since the racing is intermitted on Sunday, spreads over nine days. On the first night of "Eights Week" the boats take the places they had after the last night of racing of the previous year. The bottom boat is placed just above Ilfley lock; the penultimate boat is placed two boat lengths, or 112-115 feet (not 120 yards, as Jerome A. Hart states in a wild article entitled "Eights Week at Oxford," published in the Argonaut a year ago), ahead of the bottom one; the next boat is 112-115 feet further upstream, and so on. The men row against the current, but this is slack on account of the comparative lowness of the water in summer and the frequent recurrence of locks. Each boat is kept in position by a rope of four or five hundred fathoms of given length, one end of which is fastened to a post driven into the bank, while at the other end is a bung held by the coxswain in one hand. A five minute gun is fired to prepare the oarsmen; then a one minute gun, at sound

of which the seconds are counted off to keep the crew informed of the moment at which they may expect to hear the starting gun. As it booms out, the coxswains drop the bungs simultaneously and all the eights are off, racing for dear life, each trying to catch the boat ahead and to avoid being caught by the boat astern. If a boat is able to touch with its nose an oar or any part of the boat ahead, both boats draw to the bank and leave a clear course to the remaining eights. The boat that touches the other is said to have "made a bump," and the slower boat is said to have been "bumped." A bump is acknowledged by the coxswain of the bumped boat raising his hand. When the racing is resumed next evening, the bumping and the bumped boats exchange places, the one which made the bump going up one place and the boat which was bumped going down one. The bumping race is a continuous line along the bank of the river. The interiors are fitted up as dressing rooms, the inner one being reserved for members of the college crews. The top is equipped with an ornamental balustrade, and in hot weather has a gay awning spread over it. The college flag floats from each barge. During "Eights Week" every barge is crowded with fashionable people—the fathers, mothers, sisters, cousins, aunts and friends of the undergraduates. On the bank opposite to the barges is a towpath, along which the members of the various colleges run, shouting "Well rowed, Trinity!" "Go it, Lincoln!" and so on, to encourage the crews. To make the more noise some of the enthusiasts carry handbells or rattles, but the diabolically ingenious racket generators of American university students are mercifully absent. Sometimes it happens that a boat about to make a bump is perilously near being bumped and at such a crisis the noise redoubles; but it is mild and decorous compared with the ear shattering din at an interuniversity contest in this country.

It is evident that when there are a score or more eights, each 58-59 feet long, and two boat lengths, or 112-115 feet, of clear water between every two boats, the crews near the top of the line have a much shorter distance to row than those at the bottom. In fact, the presumably stronger crew rows the shortest distance and the presumably weakest crew pulls the longest distance. If there were enough eights on the river the curious result would be produced that the head boat would start on the finishing line, or

so near it that a few strokes would take it across. This inequality, however, does not disturb British sportsmen by any means so much as Americans may suppose. They regard it very philosophically, having no consuming passion for precise equality and no serious concern about reducing things to an exact level.

It is held that luck is an element of all sport and that sportsmen should take whatever befalls them good-naturedly and make the best of it. The only concession that has been made to the spirit of equality is this: Instead of the score or more of boats rowing all at once in one long line, as for many, many years they did, a first and second division have been formed. Each afternoon of "Eights Week" the crews of the second division row first, the boats of the first division rowing in the evening. The boat which retains leading place or wins it by bumping the leading boat, in the second division, becomes entitled to row at the bottom of the first division; and, if it can bump the boat ahead of it, it retains a place in the first division, the bumped boat dropping to top place in the second division. By thus dividing the boats into two sections, the boat at the head of each division has only nine or ten, instead of twenty or more, boats below it, and has a proportionately longer distance to row. The positions occupied by the boats at the close of the eighth and last evening's racing give the order for the year; and on the first day of "Eights Week" in the following year the boats start in this order. The boat at the top of the first division at the close of "Eights Week" is termed the "Head of the River." No trophy or prize is won by the crew of the head boat, but on "Procession Night," which takes place during "Commemoration Week" when Oxford is full of visitors, and balls, luncheons, baptizing parties and gay parties of many kinds go on almost continuously, the members of the crew come in for an ovation. The head boat having been moored near the barge of the Oxford University boat club, the other eights in due order row up and salute by "tossing their oars." The coxswain, bow and stroke oars remain seated to keep the boat trimmed, while the other six oarsmen, from No. 3 to No. 7 inclusive, stand and hold their long 12 foot oars with blades in the air in honor of the leading boat. The boat at the head of the river is very likely to go to the regatta at Henley, but there is no rule about this. If it does go, the crew's expenses are met, partly by the men themselves and partly by subscription among the dons and undergraduates of the college. The resources of the college boat club are not drawn upon, the trip to Henley being regarded as having nothing to do with college rowing, but as a jollification for the crew.

The bumping race, like so many other British institutions, is a growth of circumstances and, while it is full of fun and often quite exciting, producing several simultaneous contests, it is not likely to be adopted anywhere else except, perhaps, in Australia or some other British colony where similar conditions may arise.

This Is the Busy Season for the Holiday Shoplifter

By Burdette Shannon Sanders

THIS is the season of the shoplifter. The Christmas holidays are here and the way is open for the operations of the cleverest class of criminals known to the police of this country and Europe. The merchants of San Francisco are aware of the fact, too, with memories of many Christmases in the years gone by. They are taking every precaution to protect themselves against this class of thieves, yet they know they are beaten before the first Christmas tree is sold.

Of all the criminal elements, the shoplifter, perhaps, is the most annoying, the most persistent, the most successful.

Ask any manager of a large dry goods firm and he will tell you of the thousands of dollars' worth of valuable silks, laces, cambrics, lingerie and a hundred other articles of women's wearing apparel that are stolen from the merchants of this country, despite every effort to discover, arrest and convict the thieves—the shoplifters.

He will tell you that he has a trained staff of detectives—men, women and girls—whose sole object it is to detect the crafty shoplifter, who enters the store not to buy but to steal. He will say that, despite his utmost care and precaution, goods disappear to appear again, perhaps, in adornment of a woman's dress or to be offered for sale in some distant city. He will tell you that 89 per cent of the shoplifters are women, and they are cleverest.

The operations of the shoplifter are not confined to the dry goods merchant; the jeweler, the art dealer and the curio dealer each has his tale to tell of the clever woman pilferer.

In some instances the women who ply this nefarious business are credited with being kleptomaniacs. To take little articles, maybe of great value, and carefully conceal them is second nature to them. But mainly this taking tendency is the outgrowth of care-

ful study, training and minute planning.

No other class of thievery is more disastrous to the merchant or gives the police of every large city so much trouble. Nor does any other class of sneak thieves exist in such numbers with so few arrests and convictions. There are reasons for this.

The shoplifter is an astute and most discerning individual. She operates artfully, craftily. Her very appearance is to deceive. She does not enter the store masked, nor does she cast furtive glances about her. She is a machine of steady nerves, fearless eyes, cool decision. Usually she is gowned in the finery of the predatory rich. She has about her every appearance of refinement. The last 15 cents toward her success as a shoplifter.

In 99 cases out of 100 a clerk in a jewelry store, a novelty establishment or a great dry goods emporium would no more be able to pick a shoplifter out of a crowd of women than would a farmer be able to measure the flow of Niagara. There are no earmarks to the shoplifter. She is an individual among individuals and her only detection comes as when she is caught in the very act of stealing. Many an innocent woman has been falsely accused of shoplifting, no doubt, yet many a guilty woman has eluded the special detectives, both men and women, who are set to catch her.

The shoplifter presents a problem which has baffled the police, the best detectives, the largest businessmen of this and other countries. The reason is simple—the shoplifter passes among other women as one of them. She laughs and chatters, she fondles rich jewels, she strokes fine silks, she coos and praises the beautiful, throws aside the ugly and the bad in goods of every description when buying or pretending to buy, like the 100 other women at her elbow. It is this woman that pilfers.

The goods must be found on her person and proven to be stolen, in it-

self no easy matter. There is no other way in which the shoplifter can be detected and convicted.

Strangely enough the police records are remarkably free of shoplifters' names, while the rogues' gallery lacks their pictures. Yet the police will tell you that shoplifters exist as a distinct criminal class with numerous members.

Just now the stores, the great, cozy, roomy emporiums, are crowning their counters and shelves with attractive articles, articles that draw the attention of the women shoppers, those that please and are so dear to the feminine heart, be the woman the wife of a millionaire or a carpenter. The jeweler has increased his supply of precious gems, of brilliant jewels of every description; the dry goods merchant has imported the rarest, finest of Asiatic and European silks; the novelty merchant has arranged for more costly novelties, and now all is ready for—the shoplifter.

For the next few weeks it will be the busiest time of the year for the merchants who deal in fineries and all the things that are indicated by the one word—Christmas.

And into this busy, bustling season of seasons comes the shoplifter with her noiseless tread, her nimble fingers, her keen deception, discernment, her baffling tactics. As a white mule is the superstitious "hoodoo" of a negro parson the shoplifter is the bane of the merchant.

She has a hundred different ways of operating. She may wear a skirt with a dozen or more secret pockets, capable of concealing any number of small articles. Again she might have one large pocket that hangs from the skirt near the waist line into which could be shoved a bolt of silk or equally large article. Detection is next to impossible because of the fact that the pocket is not fastened to the skirt all the way down, but hanging free the folds of the outer garment prevent its discovery.

In the big jewelry stores the clerk is always alert. A small ancient stone may be worth thousands of dollars, a simple ring as many more. The shoplifter works here with equal ease and success.

The favorite method of the gem thief is to conceal the stolen articles in an umbrella, parasol or some other kind of sunshade, reversed. The operation is simple: A stylishly dressed woman enters the store. She leans over the counter, examining the trays of rings, stones, brooches or earrings which the clerk has extended to her. She picks up in her right hand a ring. Her left hand moves stealthily forward until the parasol she carries, with its half open folds, rests against the near end of the jewel tray. In a twinkling she has deftly flipped a ring into the open mouth of the slitten receptacle. It falls without a sound.

The clerk does not discover the loss until the woman is gone. Even then he is not sure that the fashionably dressed customer took the gem. He did not see any suspicious movement. Surely the woman is not guilty. Then he remembers the parasol, the drooping of the left hand to the counter, the flash of a kidded glove, and he knows the woman has outwitted him.

Among the great dry goods firms several kinds of shoplifters operate successfully. One type is armed with the inside pocket hanging almost to their feet, another has a multitude of smaller pockets, some the ever ready handbag, while the real professional shoplifter carries a baby in her arms for a blind. A baby will attract less attention from the house detectives than any other person, though these same sleuths are well aware that women with babies are the most dangerous and the cleverest type of the shoplifter.

Here again the method is simple. Behind the baby's head and shoulders, which rest gently against the breast of the woman, is a pocket concealed by the outer folds of the child's garments. It is this pocket which conceals the stolen articles, which the woman shoves into it, as she unconsciously, it seems, smooths the baby's dress or brushes back the hair that falls about the child's forehead.

In many of the eastern cities women have been known to hire babies for the very purpose of using them as a protection and aid in shoplifting. In Chicago not so very long ago a shoplifter was caught who confessed to the various methods employed by women of her kind. It was this woman that told of the baby trick and how it was done.

The woman in question was detected and arrested by accident by a house detective of one of the largest of Chicago's department stores. The detective happened to be a connoisseur of

fine laces. He had noticed a particular pattern at one of the counters. His sister entered the store. He beckoned to her and approached the counter where the lace was located. At that instant he caught sight of the woman with a babe in her arms. And as he looked he saw her seize a piece of lace and shove it under the baby's head. The trick was plain. The woman was arrested. In the hidden pocket was found several hundred dollars' worth of valuable laces.

The millinery stores are not immune from the shoplifter. A stylishly dressed woman purchases one of the hats. The next day she returns to the store accompanied by a companion, another woman. The first woman engages the clerk in conversation and then casually asks for another hat box. The clerk turns her back for a moment to secure the box. The second woman is not idle. She has seized a pair of gloves and shoved them under her loosely fitting overcoat. The two women pass into the ladies' dressing parlor. There the hat is transferred to the box. The women walk away and the theft is not noticed until it is too late.

There are other and equally successful tricks adopted by the professional shoplifter.

The kleptomaniac is more bold and if anything more cunning. A kleptomaniac will steal a piece of goods and conceal it in the most out of the way place. In most instances, after asking the article, she forgets about it and never uses it.

The shoplifter is not always successful. Every large department store, jewelry firm and curio store has its corps of trained detectives who are looking for the shoplifter. Girls who have had experience behind the counters, men who know the habits of women of fashion, keen eyed sleuths whose only business is to watch every customer, are always on the alert for the shoplifter. They follow her everywhere. Her every move is noticed, yet she may remain oblivious to the fact. In this way, and in this way only, are the pilferers caught.

San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle, Oakland and Spokane are all infested with the shoplifter. Here in San Francisco, where the largest and finest of western merchant firms are located, the shoplifter is the most plentiful. The police are watching, yes, but the shoplifter works, steals and departs, and the problem, What shall the merchants do to trap these clever thieves? remains unsettled.

Making Mummies as Good as New

THE peculiar science pertaining to the restoration of mummies has recently been undertaken by Prof. Harris Wilder of Northampton. The primal operation is at once very simple and very delicate. It consists of a bath of caustic potash (a 3 per cent solution) in which the subject is submerged for several minutes. Then, following a rinsing in clear water, it is plunged into a solution of formalin, after which it may be preserved indefinitely in its new state.

A few months ago Mr. Wilder achieved a restoration that was almost perfect. The photographs, valuable docu-

ments in this new science of art, show a wonderful transformation in the "before" and "after" poses.

The head represented is that of a pre-historic American woman, or child, found in southern Utah. The body showed no signs of embalming, but had been dried by the sun, and probably in a high altitude. The deterioration was such that the body weighed hardly more than 13 pounds. The lines in the hands and in the soles of the feet were still visible. The feet were very small, no larger than those of a 7 or 8 year old child of our race. The muscles

and internal organs were well preserved, the lungs still retaining a little air. The nails were absent, also the hair, save for a little patch near the nape of the neck. This loss may, however, have been due to the potash bath.

The ears and lips standing out in bold relief in the second photograph look as if some artificial material might have been used in their restoration; but their prominence is entirely the result of cellular dilation produced by the prepared liquid. The eye is relatively restored. The break in the nose is due to the fact that at the

The result obtained is, as one may see, very interesting. Mr. Wilder has recently been making experiments with Peruvian mummies; and it is his wish, when he has thoroughly familiarized himself with the process, to make more extensive experiments with Egyptian mummies. He may even try his solution on Pharaohs, now resting in regal or parchmentlike splendor in the museum at Gizeh. Archaeologists all over the world are interested in these experiments.



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